Consumption of liquor in 1109.

169. * **Mr. S. THIRAVIAM NADAR** (*Agastisvaram*) : Will the Government be pleased to state :

(*a*) whether there is a steady fall in the consumption of country liquor in 1109 ;

(*b*) if so, why ;

(*c*) whether there is an increase of consumption of foreign liquor in 1109 ; and

(*d*) if so, why ?

Mr. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*) : (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The fall might be due to the general economic depression.

(*c*) Yes.

(*d*) The depression might not have affected the richer classes to whom the consumption of foreign liquor is practically confined.

Mr. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*) : With reference to part (*a*), may I know whether there is a corresponding decrease in the sale of country liquor ?

Mr. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*) : Fall in consumption means a fall in the sale of liquor.

Mr. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*) : May I know the part of the State where there is a fall ?

Mr. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*) : I have not got that information. I claim notice.

Mr. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*) : May I know whether Government have taken any steps to put up the consumption of country liquor in the State ?

Mr. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*) : The policy of Government is to minimise the consumption of liquor as far as possible. Government are only trying to check the sale of illicit liquor.

Mr. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*) : May I know whether Government propose to take this opportunity when there is the economic depression to decrease consumption ?

Mr. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*) : That is being done every year.

Mr. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*) : May I know whether the steady fall in the consumption of country liquor is due to illicit tapping ?

Mr. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*) ; I do not think it is.

Mr. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*) : May I know from the Government the number of cases of illicit tapping and illicit distillation of arrack taken up this year ?

Mr. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*) : The figure has not become available yet.

Mr. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*) : What are the figures for last year ?

Mr. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*) : I claim notice.

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MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): May I know whether the Government are aware that illicit tapping and illicit distillation are widely prevalent in the State?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): Illicit tapping and illicit distillation are detected very frequently. That shows that they are going on in the country.

MR. PACODE A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Vilavankod*): May I know whether coco-brandy is affecting the consumption of the country liquor?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): It has affected the consumption of foreign liquor, and in places where coco-brandy is sold the consumption of foreign liquor suffers.

MR. PACODE A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Vilavankod*): May I know whether coco-brandy is a suitable substitute for foreign liquor?

PRESIDENT: That is a matter of opinion.

MR. PACODE A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Vilavankod*): I am asking the Head of the Excise Department who is supposed to be an expert in the matter.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum-Urban*): Have the Government recognised that coco-brandy is a substitute for foreign liquor?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): It is intended to replace the cheap varieties of foreign liquor.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*): With reference to part (*b*) of the question, may I know whether the Government have investigated the causes of the fall in the consumption of country liquor?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): The fall is partly due to the economic depression and partly due to temperance work. For instance, the Harijan movement has also affected the consumption of liquor.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*): May I ask whether the Government are in a position to state that the fall is not due to prevalent illicit tapping and illicit manufacture of arrack?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): That is the position of Government. The fall is not due to malpractices.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*): May I ask then how Government explain the innumerable detections of illicit tapping and illicit manufacture of arrack?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): Illicit tapping and illicit distillation have been going on ever since this business was started. It may be that the detection varies from year to year. I do not profess to claim that all malpractices are being detected. That is not humanly possible.

MR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla III*): In the Administration Report, it is stated that the decrease in the consumption of jaggery arrack is due to economic depression. I want to know why the Commissioner now ascribes it to temperance movement?

PRESIDENT: He says "also".

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RAO SAHIB S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Nominated*) : With reference to parts (*c*) & (*d*), does the Commissioner say that the richer classes are in a better position to purchase foreign liquor now than before ?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*) : Yes, comparatively.

RAO SAHIB S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Nominated*) : Is it because of that there is increase in the consumption of foreign liquor now than before ?

PRESIDENT : The habit is spreading.

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*) : There is an increase in 1109 in the import of foreign liquor. There has not been a steady increase all through. It does not mean that there was increase in the consumption of foreign liquor. The quantity imported in any year need not all be consumed in that year.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*) : May I know whether the temperance movement of Government does not affect the richer classes ?

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon* I) : The member has already had his turn.

PRESIDENT : Mr. Sivatanu Pillai, you forget that you already had your turn.

MR. K. MADHAVAN (*Nominated*) : May I ask whether the fall is due to the reduction in the strength of arrack ?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*) : People are of course requiring stronger drink.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*) : What is the complaint against Harijan workers ?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*) : They are promoting temperance. People are not taking to drink as they used to do before.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*) : Do the Harijan workers use force ?

MR. C. O. MADHAAN (*Excise Commissioner*) : I have no complaint against the Harijan workers. I only give it as an explanation.

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Shencotta*) : May I know whether there is illicit distillation of jaggery arrack ?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*) : Yes.

Conversion of the Munsiff's Court at Todupuzha into a Munsiff—Magistrate's Court.

170 ***MR. K. A. NARAYANA PILLAI** (*Todupuzha* cum *Devicolam*) : Will the Government be pleased to state :

(*a*) whether the High Court has recommended for the second time the conversion of the Munsiff's Court at Todupuzha into a Munsiff-Magistrate's Court ;

(*b*) if so, the date on which the recommendation was received by Government and

(*c*) if the answer to part (*a*) is in the affirmative, what action they have taken in it ?

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